



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/608,170	06/26/2003	Cathy Klech Gelotte	MCP 275 CON 2	8241
27777	7590	03/30/2004	EXAMINER	
PHILIP S. JOHNSON JOHNSON & JOHNSON ONE JOHNSON & JOHNSON PLAZA NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08933-7003			JAGOE, DONNA A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1614	

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/608,170

Applicant(s)

GELOTTE ET AL.

Examiner

Donna Jagoe

Art Unit

1614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/21/03 & 6/26/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

***Claims 1-17 are presented for examination.***

***Specification***

The specification is objected to because of the following informalities: there appears to be an error in the amendment dated 6/26/2003, "Cross Reference to Related Applications" wherein U.S. Serial Number 07/329,900 is recited and further stating that it is now U.S. Patent No. 6,394,317. The application number recited above as well as the patent number is incorrect. The correct application number is 09/329,900 which is now U.S. Patent No. **6,211,246**. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of

Art Unit: 1614

the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sunshine et al. U.S. Patent No. B1 4,552,899.

Claims 14-17 are drawn to a composition comprising pharmacologically effective amounts of an amine and a pharmacologically effective amount of a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), in a stable liquid form. Dependent claims are drawn to a suspension and to specific dosages of ibuprofen/pseudoephedrine.

Sunshine et al. combines NSAID's such as ibuprofen in doses of from 50 to 400mg or in general, propionic acid derivatives in doses of from 25 mg to about 600 mg (column 4, lines 27) with pseudoephedrine (column 6, lines 61-67) for use as a preserved syrup formulation (column 12-13, lines 50-9). See also claims 21-23, 25, 26, 28 and especially claim 36. The composition is administered in admixture with suitable pharmaceutical diluents, excipients or carriers suitably selected with respect to the intended form of administration, i.e., oral tablets, capsules, elixirs, syrups, etc. (column 5, line 50 to column 6, line 61).

It does not specifically recite a suspension. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a

Art Unit: 1614

suspension base motivated by the well-known teaching that ibuprofen is not soluble in water, and as such, the ibuprofen would necessarily be suspended in the syrup aforementioned.

Regarding the dosages, Sunshine et al. teach ibuprofen doses ranging from 25 mg to 600 mg. Instant claim 17 recite the mixture of ibuprofen/pseudoephedrine in a suspension wherein 100mg of ibuprofen and 12 mg of pseudoephedrine are suspended in 6 ml. As anyone of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate, preferred dosages are merely exemplary and serve as useful guideposts for the physician. There are, however, many reasons for varying dosages, including by orders of magnitude; for instance, treatment of an adult vs. treatment of a child, or a patient having an unusually severe pain would require a correspondingly higher dosage of ibuprofen. Furthermore, it is routine during animal and clinical studies to dramatically vary dosage to obtain data on parameters such as toxicity. For these and other self-evident reasons, it would have been obvious to have used higher dosages of ibuprofen. The specific safe and effective amount will be vary, with such factors as the particular condition being treated, the physical condition of the patient, the duration of treatment, the nature of the concurrent therapy (if any), the specific dosage form to be used, the carrier employed, the solubility of the formula therein and the **dosage regimen** desired for the composition.

### ***Statutory Type Double Patenting***

A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to

Art Unit: 1614

identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claims 1-11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-11 and 13 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,211,246 B1. This is a double patenting rejection.

### ***Non-Statutory Type Double Patenting***

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claim 12 rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,211,246 B1. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claim 12 of the 246 patent claims the method of claim 1 wherein the amine is 15 mg of pseudoephedrine and the NSAID is 100 mg of ibuprofen per 5 ml of

Art Unit: 1614

suspension. Instant claim 12 is drawn to the method of claim 1 wherein the amine is 15 mg of pseudoephedrine and the NSAID is 100 mg of ibuprofen per 6 ml of suspension. There does not appear to be any unexpected results by administering the combination of pseudoephedrine/ibuprofen in the exact amount (15mg/100mg) in 6 ml vs. 5ml of suspension. Nothing unexpected has been shown by increasing the volume of the suspension per dosage unit by 1ml. Normally, changes in result effective variables are not patentable where the difference involved is one of degree, not of kind; experimentation to find *workable* conditions generally involves no more than the application of routine skill in the art of chemical engineering. *In re Aller* 105 USPQ 233. Similarly, the determination of *optimal* values within a disclosed range is generally considered obvious. *In re Boesch* 205 USPQ 215.

No claims are allowed.

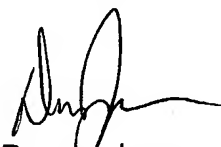
### ***Correspondence***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donna Jagoe whose telephone number is (571) 272-0576. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M..

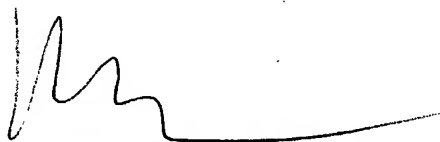
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marianne Seidel can be reached on (571) 272-0584. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1614

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Donna Jagoe  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 1614



MARIANNE C. BEIDEL  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600